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By. 

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Toshiyuki IINO, et al.

Serial No.:

Filed: January 31, 2002

Title: **EXCHANGE FOR CHANGING A ROUTE
OF A TRANSMISSION PATH TO BYPASS
A MALFUNCTIONING SWITCH**

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX NEW PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R :

Prior to examination on the merits and prior to calculation of the filing fee, please
amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 4, please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of application no. 09/040,854, filed on March 18, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 8-13:

--8. An exchange setting a transmission path for communication information through a switch network comprising a plurality of switches, said switch network being provided with a plurality of inputs and a plurality of outputs so that the transmission path is formed between one of the inputs and one of the outputs by routing the switches in said switch network, said exchange changing a route of the transmission path when a malfunction occurs in one of the switches included in the transmission path so as to bypass the malfunctioning switch, said exchange comprising:

a malfunctioning switch detecting means for detecting a location of the malfunctioning switch in said switch network; and

frame changing means for changing contents of a frame of the communication information so as to bypass the malfunctioning switch detected by said malfunctioning switch detecting means.--

--9. An exchange setting a transmission path for communication information through a switch network comprising a plurality of switches, said switch network being provided with a plurality of inputs and a plurality of outputs so that the transmission path is formed between one of the inputs and one of the outputs by routing the switches in said switch network, said exchange changing a route of the transmission path when a malfunction occurs in one of the switches included in the transmission path so as to bypass the malfunctioning switch, said exchange comprising:

a malfunctioning switch detecting means for detecting a location of the malfunctioning switch in said switch network; and

header changing means for changing a header of the communication information so as to bypass the malfunctioning switch detected by said malfunctioning switch detecting means.--

--10. The exchange as claimed in claim 9, wherein the header of the communication information is used as routing information.--

--11. The exchange as claimed in claim 10, wherein the routing information includes former routing information before an occurrence of the malfunction and later routing information after the occurrence of the malfunction.--

--12. The exchange as claimed in claim 11, wherein the routing information further includes flag information indicating the occurrence of the malfunction.--

--13. An exchange setting a transmission path for communication information through a switch network comprising a plurality of switches, said switch network being provided with a plurality of inputs and a plurality of outputs so that the transmission path is formed between one of the inputs and one of the outputs by routing the switches in said switch network, said exchange changing a route of the transmission path when a malfunction occurs in one of the switches included in the transmission path so as to bypass the malfunctioning switch, said exchange comprising:

a malfunctioning switch detecting means for detecting a location of the malfunctioning switch in said switch network; and

transmission path changing means for changing the transmission path within said switch network based on flag information added to the communication information, the flag information indicating an occurrence of the malfunction.--

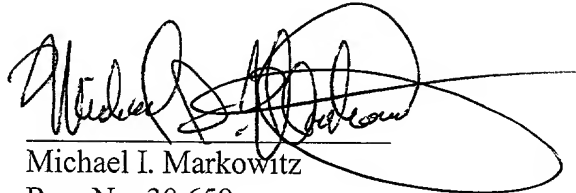
REMARKS

All of the claims of application no. 09/040,854, filed on March 18, 1998, (hereinafter referred to as "the parent application"), namely, claims 1-7, are being cancelled by this Preliminary Amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 8-13 are being added by this Preliminary Amendment for examination.

Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered prior to calculation of the filing fee so that Applicant is not charged for the pendency of claims 1-7 prior to the entry of this amendment.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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